

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 11. Please add new claims 14-20. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer file containing digital data wherein authentication information is encoded in the filename of said computer file at a predetermined position or using delimiters, said computer file being attached to an email as an email attachment.
2. (Original) A method for encoding authentication information in the filename of a computer file containing digital data, said method comprising the steps of:
 - computing a digital signature of the computer file using a private key of a sender; and,
 - encoding said computed digital signature in a filename of said computer file at a predetermined position or using delimiters.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of encoding said computed digital signature includes the step of adding said computed digital signature in the filename just before ~~the~~ a file extension comprised by the filename, said file extension being located at an end of the filename, said computed digital signature having a fixed size.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of computing a digital signature is based on a ~~symmetric~~ or public-key algorithm.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of computing a digital signature includes the steps of: computing a hash value of said computer file; and computing a digital signature of the computed hash value using the private key of the sender.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of computing a hash value uses a Secure Hash Algorithm or a Message-Digest-5 algorithm.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~further comprising the step of applying said method to files~~ wherein a second file is attached or linked to the computer file, and wherein the method further comprises:

computing a digital signature of the second file using the private key of the sender; and
encoding said computed digital signature of the second file in a filename of said second file at a predetermined position or using delimiters.

8. (Original) Apparatus comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 2.

9. (Original) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 2.

10. (Original) A method for authenticating a computer file having a filename comprising authentication information, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting said authentication information from the filename of the computer file at a predetermined position or using delimiters;

recovering an encoded hash value of the computer file by using a public key of a sender of the computer file and the extracted authentication information;

computing a hash value of said computer file using a hash function used by the sender to generate the encoded authentication information;

comparing the encoded and the computed hash values; and,

if the encoded and the computed hash values are identical, processing the computer file, else, if the encoded and the computed hash values are different, rejecting the computer file.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, ~~further comprising the step of applying said method to files wherein a second file is attached or linked to the computer file, wherein the second file has a filename comprising authentication information, and wherein the method further comprises:~~

extracting said authentication information from the filename of the second file at a predetermined position or using delimiters;

recovering an encoded hash value of the second file by using the public key of the sender and the extracted authentication information of the second file;

computing a hash value of said second file using a hash function used by the sender to generate the encoded authentication information of the second file;

comparing the encoded and the computed hash values of the second file; and
if the encoded and the computed hash of the second file values are identical, processing
the second file, else, if the encoded and the computed hash values are different, rejecting the
second file.

12. (Original) Apparatus comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 10.

13. (Original) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 10.

14. (New) The computer file of claim 1, wherein the authentication information encoded in the filename is a digital signature encoded in the filename of the computer file.

15. (New) The computer file of claim 14, wherein the digital signature encoded in the computer file is a digital signature of a hash value of the computer file.

16. (New) The computer file of claim 14, wherein the digital signature is encoded in the filename just before a file extension comprised by the filename, said file extension being located at an end of the filename.

17. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of computing a digital signature is based on a

symmetric algorithm.

18. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises:

after said encoding, attaching the computer file to an email as an attachment to the email

19. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer file comprises a computer program.

20. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the computer file is an audio file..